TRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) The recommendation has to be examined in details.

Setting up of National Institute of Consumer Affairs

2439. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUP PLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to set up a National Institute of Consumer Affairs at Hyderabad in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON SUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) The Government has received a proposal from Govt, of Andh ra Pradesh to set up a National Institute for Consumer Research and Training at Hyderabad at an estimated cost of Rs. 3.5 crores which is under consideration. The object of the proposed institute is to undertake and assist in organisation of training and study courses, conferences, seminars; to undertake research; to establish and maintain libraries and information services; to conduct surveys and studies etc.

Expansion of Consumer Cooperatives

2440. SHRI RAMACHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CON SUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are contemplating expansion of Consumer Cooperatives in the country, and

(b) if so, what are the details of steps proposed to be taken ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) and (b) Cooperation is *a* state subject and hence it is for the State Governments to initiate necessary steps to make the Consumer Cooperatives more effective for which they have already been advised.

Pending cases before State Consumer Forum in Maharashtra

2441 SHRI ADIK GOVINDRAO WAMANRAO: Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) the number of cases of claims pending before the State Consumer Forum in Maharashtra as on 1st August, 1993:

(b) what are the reasons for such inordinate delay in disposing of these cases;

(c) the number of cases from the city of greater Bombay so pending; and

(d) the measures taken for early disposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (d) Government of Maharashtra have compiled information upto June, 1993. As per information available on that date 9698 cases are pending in the Consumer Fora in Maharashtra, out of which 2029 cases are pending with the two consumer fora in Bombay City. Non-availability of (1) qualified persons for appointment as President of the District Fora; (2) technical staff like stenographers; and (3) suitable accommodation are some of the reasons for dealy in disposing of the-cases.

The measures being taken by the State Government of Maharashtra in reducing the delay in deciding cases include appointment of full-time Presidents, training of non-judicial members of the consumer fora, filling up staff vacancies, location of suitable accommodation and creation of necessary infrastructure.

Gap between demand and production of coal

2442. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH :
SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that country's coal